

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102175

FOR US DEL LOS

FOL DAKAR 2929 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN BANJUL
CASABLANCA CONAKRY MOSCOW NOUAKCHOTT MONROVIA ACCRA BISSAU
APRIL 19, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EWWT, MARR, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PLOS, SG

SUBJECT: OFFSHORE FISHING

REF: STATE 90967

RESPONSES KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.

A. OFFSHORE FISHIV IS KEY SECTOR OF THE SENEGALESE
ECONOMY ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC
PRODUCT IN 1977 AND EMPLOYING SOME 46,000 PERSONS. TOTAL
CATCH HAS AVERAGED OVER 350,000 TONS PAST SEVERAL YEARS,
MOST OF WHICH IS CONSUMED LOCALLY AND CONSTITUTES MAJOR
SOURCE OF PROTEIN IN SENEGALESE DIET. FISH EXPORTS, WHICH
ARE VALUED AT OVER \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY, CONSIST MOSTLY OF
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SHELLFISH SHIPMENTS TO EUROPE. FISH SALES REPRESENT
SENEGAL'S FOURTH LARGEST SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AFTER
GROUNDNUT PRODUCTS, PHOSPHATES, AND TOURISM. CURRENT
DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1977-1981) CALLS FOR INVESTMENT OF
OVER DOL 100 MILLION IN FISHING SECTOR WITH TARGET CATCH OF
600,000 TONS IN 1981. FISHERIES QUESTIONS H VE POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS PRIMARILY IN CONTEXT OF LDC SENSITIVITY

TOWARD "EXPLOITATION" OF OFFSHORE FISHERIES RESOURCES BY WIDE-RANGING MODERN FISHING FLEETS OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS (SEE QUESTIONS C-G.)

B. POTENTIAL IS EXCELLENT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RICH COASTAL WATERS. CURRENTLY 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL CATCH IS BROUGHT IN BY ARTISANAL FISHERMEN USING PIROUGUES (HEAVY CANOES). MODERN FLEET IS SMALL AND POORLY ORGANIZED, AND HAS YET TO RECOVER COMPLETELY FROM FAILURE OF STATE FISHING COMPANY SOSAP IN 1976 (76 DAKAR 5148). PLANS TO BUILD LARGE FISHING PIER WITH EXTENSIVE PROCESSING CAPABILITY AT DAKAR PORT UNDER WORLD BANK LOAN SHOULD CREATE FURTHER INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP INDUSTRIAL FISHING SECTOR.

C. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH SPAIN, ITALY, FRANCE, JAPAN, IVORY COAST, AND POLAND. SCOPE OF AGREEMENTS VARIES WIDELY. (E.G. SPANISH SHIPS REQUIRED TO OFFLOAD 1400 TONS SHRIMP ANNUALLY FOR LOCAL PROCESSING. POLISH ACCORD INCLUDES DOL 35 MILLION CREDIT TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL FISHING SECTOR THROUGH PURCHASE OF POLISH TRAWLERS AND BUILDING OF WHARF AT ST. LOUIS. SOME AGREEMENTS ALSO CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR TRAINING SENEGALESE FISHERMEN.) FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES ARE THEORETICALLY ENFORCED BY SMALL PATROL FLEET; EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO RECENT CASES OF SEIZURE OF FOREIGN VESSELS, THOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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IVOIRIAN AND KUWAITI VESSELS HAVE BEEN REPORTED DETAINED IN PAST YEARS.

D. LOCAL FEELING IS THAT POACHING IS OCCURRING IN SENEGALESE WATERS, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANTIFY NEGATIVE EFFECTS.

E. THOUGH SOVIET PERSONNEL VIGOROUSLY DENY THAT THEIR SHIPS FISH IN WATERS CLAIMED BY SENEGAL, THE GOS IS CONVINCED THAT USSR IS POACHING. (EMBASSY AGREES. US NAVAL VESSELS ENCOUNTERED SOVIET SHIPS FISHING IN SENEGALESE WATERS ON RECENT VISIT.) THE USSR IS ALLOWED TO CHANGE CREWS AND DOCK SHIPS AT DAKAR HARBOR BUT HAS NO FISHING RIGHTS. NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT WERE ABORTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. ONE SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY THAT GOS PATROL BOATS HAVE SET OFF AFTER SOVIET TRAWLERS MANY TIMES ONLY TO FIND THAT THE SOVIET BOATS WARNED IN ADVANCE IN TIME TO EVADE SEIZURE. AT RECENT LUNCHEON AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, SENEGALESE MINISTER OF PLAN DESCRIBED INCIDENT IN WHICH SOVIET BOAT FIRED AT SENEGALESE PURSUERS. AS EARLIER REPORTED, SOVIET

VESSELS WERE ACCOSTED BY SENEGALESE PATROL CRAFT AND ORDERED TO DEPART OR COME UNDER FIRE IN INCIDENT IN LATE 1976 (76 DAKAR 8214, 77 DAKAR A-12). MINISTER OF PLAN BELIEVES PATROL PLANES TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT, AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS USED RADIO-EQUIPPED FRENCH MARITIME RESCUE PLAN FOR LIMITED PATROL CAPABILITY. IN JULY OF 1977 SENEGALESE NAVY TOOK POSSESSION OF NEW, 48-METER FRENCH-BUILT PATROL VESSEL, THE "PODOR," WHICH BROUGHT TO FIVE NUMBER OF PATROL BOATS IN SENEGAL'S "ARSENAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR FISHING PATRIMONY," IN THE WORDS OF NEWS ARTICLES REPORTING THE CRAFT'S ACQUISITION.

H. FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS, SENEGALESE ARE
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FAVORABLY DI&POSED TO REGIONAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE CONTROL OVER OFFSHORE FISHING RESOURCES. 76 DAKAR 6860 AND 76 DAKAR A-115 REPORTED CONVENING BY SENEGAL IN OCTOBER 1976 OF FIVE NATION MINISTERIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS MEANS TO PROTECT TERRITORIAL WATERS AGAINST "LOOTING OF OUR MARINE RESOURCES BY EASTERN AS WELL AS WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES." SENEGALESE ALSO HAVE BEEN AMONG LEADINGPROONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, IN BELIEF INTERNATIONAL ACCORD WOULD ENHANCE AND HELP PROTECT RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATE TO OFFSHORE RESOURCES. COHEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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